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way being cognizant of the contemplated plot. Prosecuting attorneys may point the finger of accusation at the Servian royal family on such unsupported evidence, but it is far from probable that any court of law would pass sentence on the Crown Prince without further evidence from more credible and important witnesses concerning the nature of the interviews and the connection of the Prince and the government with the "Narodna Odbrana" and the Servian conspirators named in the notes of the trial.

This volume proves again the futility of the numerous attempts to explain: "Why England is at war," "Germany's case," or "Austria's position" without the proper background of historic knowledge and a serious attempt at modern research. What Americans want—what all fair-minded persons desire—is not a hasty and untested statement of Austria's case or a polemic in defense of Servia, but a thorough, impartial and scientific study, based as far as possible on official sources and documents, of the whole complicated situation and the events leading up to the murder of the Archduke. As such a work cannot be performed successfully until some time after the war is over, it will be better to withhold final judgment in the Austro-Servian controversy for the present.

N. DWIGHT HARRIS.

Les Finances de Guerre de L'Angleterre. By GASTON JÈZE, Professeur-adjoint a la Faculté de Droit de L'Université de Paris. (Paris: Giard et Brière. 1915. Pp. 248.)

One of the results of the European war has been an extraordinary output of new publications dealing with almost every conceivable question to which the great conflict has given rise. Most of them so far have been of a rather popular character and for the most part polemic. The present study by an acknowledged master in the field of public finance is a notable exception in this respect. It is neither controversial nor popular in character, but is a serious study of English war finance and it bears the evidences of careful research and learning which characterize the numerous publications which its distinguished author has brought out in recent years. While the present study is not a general treatise on war finance, it is by no means without observations on what is and what is not sound financial policy in time of war. And although primarily a study of present English war finance, it is not wholly so; as a suitable background for the present study the

author has compared the financial policies and expedients of the British government during various previous wars with those adopted since the outbreak of the present conflict.

M. Jèze bestows high praise on the British government in general and on the chancellor of the exchequer, in particular, for the wisdom which they have shown in the measures adopted for obtaining the huge sums necessary for carrying on a war of such tremendous magnitude as that now in progress. The decision of the government not to resort to the expedient of issuing paper money and not to rely wholly upon loans, but to employ as far as possible the power of taxation and thus compel the present generation to bear a large portion of the burden, he commends as one of obvious justice and wisdom.

On August 8, 1914, Parliament voted a credit of \$500,000,000, which was followed by another vote in November of \$1,125,000,000. These votes were remarkable, says M. Jèze, for two reasons; first, because of the amount—it was the largest war appropriation ever made; second, because it was granted to the government in a lump sum and without specification as to the purposes for which it was to be used. In previous wars it had been the custom of Parliament in voting war appropriations to limit their use exclusively to cover expenditures of military and naval operations in the strictest sense of the word. The votes of 1914, on the contrary, authorized the government to use the sums granted for all expenses resulting from a state of war, *i.e.*, for the cost of all measures which might be adopted by it for the defense of the country. Thus for the first time the House of Commons surrendered, to a large degree, its power of control and gave the government *carte blanche* to proceed as its judgment dictated. This M. Jèze thinks, was a wise decision and the fact that the November appropriation was voted four months after the beginning of the war without a word of protest by any member of the opposition shows that the confidence in the government was complete.

The enormous sums thus voted were raised in two ways: by increased taxes and by a loan. The rates on incomes and the surtax were doubled, the excise tax on beer was increased and so was the duty on tea. The succession tax and the tax on alcohol were untouched as they had already been raised several years ago, nor were the taxes on wines and sugar—wines for reasons of public policy (the chief sources being France and Portugal), sugar because the war had limited the English supply (much of which had come from Germany and Austria). It was estimated that the increased rates on incomes, beer, and tea would

bring in about \$300,000,000 a year. The remainder (\$1,750,000,000) was raised by a loan. There was some anxiety at first as to the probable success of a loan of such huge dimensions, but on November 27, ten days after it was opened, the chancellor of the exchequer was able to announce that it had all been subscribed. It was, he said, the largest ever made in the history of the world for any purpose and the promptness with which it was taken could be regarded as a justification of the measures which the government had adopted.

JAMES W. GARNER.

A History of French Public Law. By JEAN BRISSAUD. Translated by James W. Garner. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1915. Pp. lviii + 581.)

This work forms Volume IX of the Continental Legal History Series published under the auspices of the Association of American Law Schools. The *History of French Private Law* by the same author has already been translated, so that the English-speaking public is now in possession of the complete treatise of Brissaud on the institutions of his country.

After an editorial preface by Professor Freund and two extended introductions by Professor Hazeltine and Professor Willoughby, the reader will not fail to appreciate in advance the importance of this contribution to political science, consequently the reputation of the author as an investigator of legal history need not be reestablished in this brief review. Suffice it to say that we have to do with a work of recognized distinction since the date of its original publication in 1904. Coming after a series of investigators equally prominent in their day, Brissaud presents the accumulated results of the long scientific inquiry of others as well as himself.

The period covered extends from the Roman conquest of Gaul to the French Revolution, with the usual divisions into the Frankish epoch, the feudal period, and the period of monarchy. No reclassification of these phenomena can well be made at present, but the author has done well to treat the constitutional history of the church in one continued story through the whole period. This permits the student to gain perspective for the detailed work of Luchaire and others on the early monarchy. In the ordinary teaching of mediaeval history not enough attention is given to the church as a great fiscal institution, but the combined array of text and references in this work